

**Centre Report:
Sociology and Social Policy Programme
Victoria University of Wellington
September 2020 - Chamsy el-Ojeili**

Recent Appointments

The Sociology and Social Policy Programme at VUW has made a number of recent appointments.

We have appointed **Dr Janepicha Cheva-Isarakul** to a permanent role as Lecturer. Janepicha's research specialities centre on questions of statelessness, immigration, and citizenship, and she recently completed her PhD in Anthropology at VUW.

We have welcomed **Dr Ricardo Quirarte** into our programme on a two-year lecturing contract. Ricardo completed his PhD in our Programme in 2019, his research and teaching focus covers issues of masculinities, gender, and sexuality, and he is teaching two new courses for us: "Masculinities: Hegemony and Subversion" and "Power, Institutions and Social change". For both courses, Ricardo is conducting an exercise of collaboration with a group of Social Psychology students at ITESO University in Mexico. His group engages in discussion (through videos and letters) with the students in Mexico and talk about common issues, as a way to build bridges between each of their situated perspectives: from machismo and gender practices, to the challenges of entering the workforce in the current panorama, amidst a pandemic. So, far, the results have been very valuable and the pedagogical methodology, which follows a competency-based model, has provided the students with communication and analytical tools.

And **Jonathan Oosterman** has also joined us as a teaching fellow. He teaches courses on the sociology of health and the sociology of emotions, and his research expertise is centred on questions of climate change and climate justice, which he will focus on in his doctoral research.

Research Activity

Janepicha Cheva-Isarakul

Janepicha completed her PhD thesis in 2020: "Navigating the Illegible State: Everyday Experiences of Statelessness among Shan Youth in Northern Thailand".

Cheva-Isarakul, J. (2019) "'Diagnosing' Statelessness and Everyday State Illegibility in Northern Thailand", *The Statelessness and Citizenship Review*, 1(2), pp. 214–238. Available at: <https://statelessnessandcitizenshipreview.com/index.php/journal/article/view/53>

Janepicha also has an upcoming chapter called "Seeking 'a right to belong': A stateless Shan youth's journey to citizenship in northern Thailand". This is part of an edited volume "Statelessness, Governance, and the Problem of Citizenship" by Tendayi Bloom and Lindsey Kingston. It will be published early 2021 with Manchester University Press.

Jennifer De Saxe

Jennifer is on Research and Study leave in the second part of 2020. Jennifer's trip to South Africa was postponed due to COVID (she had planned to engage in a tri-national study on white supremacy between

Aotearoa, US, and South Africa), and she has put the qualitative work on hold and is currently engaging with theoretical and conceptual work on hegemonic whiteness and white supremacy. Jennifer has a book project under review in which she unpacks and interrogates white supremacy through the theoretical lenses of the racial contract and an epistemology of ignorance.

Kevin Dew

Kevin and his research team have started collecting data on their Marsden funded project titled 'exceptional trajectories: transforming understanding of cancer survivorship'. Interviews are being undertaken with people who have survived longer than expected following a cancer diagnosis. If you know of any possible candidates for participants in this research please get in touch with Kevin.

Kevin has recently submitted a book titled "Complementary and alternative medicine: containing and expanding therapeutic possibilities" to be published in Routledge's Critical Approaches to Health series.

Recent publications include:

Dew, K., Armstrong, L. (2020) Can the subaltern heal? Medical marijuana in Aotearoa New Zealand. *Journal of Sociology* <https://doi.org/10.1177/1440783320925144>

Dew, K., Donovan, S. (2020) Vaccines, polarising divides and the role of public health. *Critical Public Health* 30(1): 1-3.

Media engagement:

July 16, 2020 – "A yes vote will likely put 'green fairies' out of a job, and that's OK". *The Spinoff*, Opinion <https://thespinoff.co.nz/society/16-07-2020/a-yes-vote-will-likely-put-green-fairies-out-of-a-job-and-thats-ok/>

Chamsy el-Ojeili

Chamsy's new book – *The Utopian Constellation: Future-Oriented Social and Political Thought Today*. London: Palgrave – was published at the end of 2019. <https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9783030325152>

Chamsy is currently working on a couple of pieces on the far-Right, and a couple of pieces on the work of Immanuel Wallerstein.

Recent publications include:

el-Ojeili, C and Taylor, D. (2020) "'The Future in the Past': Anarcho-Primitivism and the Critique of Civilization", in *Rethinking Marxism*, 32 (2), pp. 168-186.

el-Ojeili C and Taylor, D (2020), "The Extremism Industry: A Political Logic of Post-Hegemonic Liberalism", in *Critical Sociology*, Online first (April, 2020): <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0896920520912459>

Carol Harrington

Carol is researching online feminisms and anti-feminisms with a focus on discourse about sexual violence.

Recent publications include:

Carol Harrington (2020) What is “Toxic Masculinity” and Why Does it Matter? *Men and Masculinities* (July, online first)

Maxwell A, Harrington C, Bracey S, Scientific eroticism, beauty theorists, and the borders of the erotic: John Robertson’s Kalogynomia and Alexander Walker’s Beauty *Porn Studies* 1-16 (June, online first)

Mike Lloyd

Mike is currently co-editing with Kirsty Wild (Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Population Health, the University of Auckland) a special issue of *New Zealand Geographer* on ‘New research on cycling in New Zealand’. As part of the collection, Mike has an article on ‘Getting by: the ethnomethods of everyday cycling navigation’. Early online versions of some of the articles are currently available and the whole collection will be available by December 2020.

As part of an analysis of video data on e-scooter interactions gathered in late 2019 to early 2020, Mike has ‘Carving the city: e-scooters and the playful use of city space’ under review. Further papers from this project will be pursued in the future.

In the near future, Mike will be returning to a topic of previous research - cycle rage – but this time extending from off-road cycling to consider infra-cyclist rage on the road. This will also utilise video data, and will also engage with the ongoing importance of situational analyses of violence as largely stimulated by Randall Collins’ work on violence.

Ricardo Quirarte

Ricardo completed his PhD thesis in 2019: *The Contradictions of Masculinity: Desire, emotions, and masculine identities of seven heterosexual Mexican men*. The thesis took a narrative approach to the analysis of video diaries submitted by the seven men who participated in the research, over the span of eight months. The analysis centred on affective practices, emotions, social mediations of desire and masculine identity as ongoing negotiations in a particular geopolitical context. The men in this study constantly situated themselves between the hegemonic discourse of masculinity in Mexico and alternatives closer to a feminist approach. This positioning showed how their practices and ideas, while still part of the hegemonic system, were also able to challenge it. The thesis revealed how masculinities are manifested, as gender identity, with specific practices, desires, emotions, and ways of being in the world; and as a symbolic-material system of hierarchical organisation of sexed bodies. Thus, analysis of sexual-affective heterosexual relationships, through a focus on masculinities, can bring to light the contradictions and conflicts of being a man situated in a privileged position within the sex-gender system, in a social context that is increasingly questioning the position and the system that maintains it.

Rhonda Shaw

Rhonda is currently working on three different projects on assisted reproduction. One of these is a principle investigator on a Marsden project, 'Assessing Assisted Reproduction: Social Infertility and Family Formation'.

Rhonda is also editing a collection of essays on *Reproductive Citizenship: Technology, Rights and Relationships* to be published in early 2021.

And she has just published a couple of short articles for *Newsroom*.

<https://www.newsroom.co.nz/ideasroom/assisted-reproduction-under-lockdown>

<https://www.newsroom.co.nz/ideasroom/the-silence-around-miscarriage>

Dylan Taylor

Dylan was editor of a special issue of *Counterfutures* on housing in Aotearoa. The issue was co-launched with Marama Davidson, co-leader of the Green Party, on 5 August 2020, at the Grand Hall, in the Parliament Buildings, with over 100 people in attendance. The blurb and content of this issue are as follows:

The right to housing is one of the most elemental. Yet access to housing—and the type of housing we have access to—is the site of increasingly pronounced inequalities in our society. This issue of *Counterfutures* offers visions for how we might address our current housing crisis as part of a wider push for a just and equitable society.

EDITORIAL

DYLAN TAYLOR, SUE BRADFORD & JACK FOSTER The Right to Housing

ARTICLES

VANESSA COLE A Case for Universal State Housing

MARK SOUTHCOMBE Re-socialising Aotearoa New Zealand Housing

REBECCA KIDDLE Engaging Communities in the Design of Homes and Neighbourhoods

MOVEMENTS

JASMINE TAANKINK & HUGO ROBINSON Dispossession and Gentrification in the Porirua Redevelopment

INTERVENTIONS

JADE KAKE Spatial Justice—Decolonising Our Cities and Settlements

ELYJANA ROACH Driving Through the East

INTERVIEW

CAMIA YOUNG & THOMAS NASH Envisioning Regenerative Communities

REVIEWS

PETER HOWLAND Setting the Scenes of Early Pākehā : Ian Smith's *Pākehā Settlements in a Māori World: New Zealand Archaeology 1769–1860*

JACK FOSTER A Global Fix : Raquel Rolnik's *Urban Warfare: Housing Under the Empire of Finance*

DAMIAN SLIGO-GREEN The Path Home : Samuel Stein's *Capital City: Gentrification and the Real Estate State*

Dylan is also involved in the ongoing organisation for the Social Movements, Resistance, and Social Change Conference. This year's theme 'Activating Collectivity: Aroha and Power' was influenced by the Indigenous movements of 2019 and is based on aroha, aloha, alofa, and love as forms of power that generate theory and practice. The conference aims to bring people together who are envisioning and working towards political change across Aotearoa and beyond. It is being held on the 11-14th of November at Victoria University of Wellington.

Recent publications include:

el-Ojeili, C and Taylor, D. (2020) "'The Future in the Past': Anarcho-Primitivism and the Critique of Civilization", in *Rethinking Marxism*, 32 (2), pp. 168-186.

el-Ojeili C and Taylor, D (2020), "The Extremism Industry: A Political Logic of Post-Hegemonic Liberalism", in *Critical Sociology*, Online first (April, 2020): <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0896920520912459>

Thesis Students

Colin Barton received a VUW PhD scholarship and began his doctoral research this year, looking at Right-wing populism in NZ.

Jonathan Oosterman has recently received a VUW PhD scholarship, and he will begin his research in 2021. Jonathan's working title is "Pathways for climate justice". He intends to explore how questions of urgency and systemic change shape strategic decision-making for climate action in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Dani Pickering received a VUW PhD scholarship in 2021. Dani's thesis is guided by the following question: What opportunities exist in the current socioeconomic and cultural conditions of Aotearoa to disrupt colonial-capitalist hegemony, pursuant to decolonisation?

In 2021, **Amata Jantarangse** will begin a PhD on the negotiation of public space in urban housing.

Nabilah Husna has begun her MA thesis. Her topic is: Cultural competency in social policy approaches to address domestic abuse within Singaporean Muslim households.